

# Social Psychology (830:321:B6)

## Summer 2020

**Instructor:** Steven Jones, M.S.  
**E-mail:** sj534@psych.rutgers.edu  
**Office:** Zoom  
**Office Hours:** (by appointment)

**Class Times:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1pm – 4:40pm  
**Class Location:** World Wide Web

### Course Description

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The goal of this course is to introduce you to theories and research that explain our social world. Social Psychology uses the scientific method to examine people's feelings, thoughts, beliefs, and actions within the context of social situations. We will learn about how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals influence and are influenced by those of others. We will discuss the theory and research behind topics such as attitudes, persuasion, group influence, conformity, discrimination, and aggression.

### Course Objectives

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- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational concepts and research studies that have shaped the field of social psychology.
- Understand and apply basic scientific methods used in social psychological research.
- Apply and connect social psychological theories and principles to everyday experiences.
- Analyze and critique empirical social psychological research.

### Course Materials

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#### Required Textbook

Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2016). *Social Psychology* (10th edition). Cengage Learning. The textbook is available at the Rutgers University Bookstore for purchase or rental. An e-book version is also available.

#### Course Website

If you are properly registered for the course, you should have access to the course website through Sakai (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>). Lecture slides and any relevant resources will be posted before each class.

### Course Structure & Evaluation

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We will meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1pm to 4:40pm. Classes will consist of lectures, activities, videos, and discussions. Because this is a summer course, we are packing an entire semester's worth of material into just six weeks. This means we will cover a lot of material each day.

### Required Readings

All assigned readings should be completed prior to each class. You should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. I encourage you to take notes as you read and bring any questions that you might have on the material to share with the class. You will have a reading quiz given to you.

### **Class Discussion**

Social Psychology topics are easy to discuss and relate to your daily life. As such, class discussion is welcome and highly encouraged. You are not required to share personal experiences, but you are more than welcome to share them if you would like (assuming they are appropriate for class discussion, of course). You are asked to be respectful towards myself, other students, and to keep an open mind towards opinions and experiences that do not match your own. It is perfectly acceptable to disagree with someone as long as you do it respectfully.

### **In-class Activities & Homework Assignments**

There will be at least one quiz, or homework assignment in most classes. These activities are meant to supplement course material, break up lecture, and allow you to apply what you are learning to your real life.

### **Exams**

There will be two non-cumulative exams. The exams will cover readings, lectures, class discussions, and videos shown in class. Exams will be multiple-choice format and will be administered during the class times designated on the schedule. You must complete your exams during class time.

**\*\*Make-up exams will not be permitted without advance permission and documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, an obituary or funeral notice, police report, etc.). Permission will only be granted for unavoidable circumstances. If you need to miss an exam, please email me ahead of time if possible.**

### **Short Paper**

There will be one short paper due for this class. It should be 3-5 pages, doubled spaced, Times New Roman font size 12, and in compliance with APA format guidelines. This includes a References list formatted in APA style. In the paper, you will critically evaluate and apply a social psychology theory or phenomenon that we have learned about:

#### *Part 1: Critical evaluation of the theory:*

Explain a social psychological theory or phenomenon we have learned about in your own words and critically evaluate it. For the critical evaluation: Do the principles of this theory/phenomenon contradict those of others you have learned about? Does the theory/phenomenon contradict empirical research you have learned about? Does it fail to take important factors into consideration? Are there limitations to the way this theory/phenomenon can be tested? The evaluation could be partly based on your own opinions and partly based on outside sources. Alternatively, you can summarize outside sources' critical evaluations in your own words and indicate why you think the arguments presented are valid or not. You must cite any outside sources used in APA format!

#### *Part 2: Application of theory:*

Does this theory/phenomenon help you make sense of a specific interaction or situation? You may choose an experience from your own life, or you may analyze a current event, a magazine/newspaper article, movie/TV show, etc. Please briefly describe the situation you are analyzing and then discuss how the theory/phenomenon applies to and can explain this situation. If the theory/phenomenon

applies to a situation but doesn't explain it, that's okay too! But explain the specific inconsistency—in what way is the situation inconsistent with the theory?

### **Attendance**

Attendance in this course is essential. But because of our current situation, lectures during class time are now optional. You must watch the lecture videos though and stay caught up on your quizzes and assignments. Because summer courses are fast-paced, each meeting will cover a great deal of material and not watching the lecture may set you behind. Some of the material discussed in lecture will not be covered in the readings. Although this class does not have an attendance grade, missing class may lead you to lose points on in-class assignments. Also, exams may include materials discussed in class but not in the readings. Therefore, missing class repeatedly will impact your grade. If you absolutely have to miss a class for any reason, make sure you get lecture notes from a classmate.

### **Extra Credit**

There may be opportunities for extra credit during the semester. I will share these opportunities in class as they come up.

### **Grading**

Your grade will be a direct reflection of the amount of time, engagement, and effort put into this course.

#### *Grading Breakdown:*

Exam 1	60 points (30%)
Exam 2	60 points (30%)
Short Paper	30 points (15%)
Reading Quizzes & HW Assignments	50 points (25%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 points</b>

#### *Grading Scale:*

A	90% and above
B+	85% - 89.99%
B	80% - 84.99%
C+	75% - 79.99%
C	70% - 74.99%
D	60 - 69.99%
F	59.99% and below

### **Class Etiquette**

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This class aims to foster a mutually respectful and supportive learning environment. Please be kind and respectful towards each other when engaging in class discussions. It is perfectly acceptable to disagree with someone as long as you do it respectfully. Please use technology only for class-related activities such as taking notes. Please stay off your cell phone and unnecessary technology during class. Come to class on time and wait until class is over to start packing up.

## **Academic Integrity**

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By participating in this course, you are responsible for and required to uphold the principles of academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following standards of academic integrity in all of your work. Please familiarize yourself with Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>

All violations of academic integrity will be strictly enforced. I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. For this class, you may consult outside sources (e.g., journal articles, books) provided that you appropriately cite them in your writing (i.e., provide complete and appropriate references and referencing notation). You may not turn in another student's work as your own, represent someone else's idea as your own, or work collaboratively on individual assignments. You may not reference published research without a proper citation. If you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism, please ask me.

## **Students Resources**

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### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 | 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 | <http://vpva.rutgers.edu>

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

### **Office of Disability Services**

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/> | (848) 445-6800 | Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus  
Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. Any student with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Services to determine the appropriate accommodations. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu>.

**Course Schedule (subject to change)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings* &amp; Assignments** (*Readings are due before class)</b>
Tues, May 26	Chapter 1: What is Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Thurs, May 28	Chapter 2: Doing Social Psychology Research Chapter 3: The Social Self (Part 1)	Chapters 2 & 3
Tues, June 2	Chapter 3: The Social Self (Part 2) Chapter 4: Perceiving Persons	Chapter 4
Thurs, June 4	Chapter 5: Stereotypes, Prejudice & Discrimination	Chapter 5
Tues, June 9	Chapter 6: Attitudes Exam Review	Chapter 6
Thurs, June 11	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1 – 6)</b> <b>***Class will start at 2pm, NOT 1pm.</b>	
Tues, June 16	Chapter 7: Conformity	Chapter 7
Thurs, June 18	Chapter 8: Group Processes Chapter 9: Attraction & Close Relationships (Part 1)	Chapters 8 & 9
Tues, June 23	Chapter 9: Attraction & Close Relationships (Part 2) Chapter 10: Helping Others	Chapter 10 <b>Short Paper due on Fri, June 28 by 11:55pm</b>
Thurs, June 25	Chapter 11: Aggression Special Topics Exam Review	Chapter 11
Tues, June 30	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 7 – 11, Special Topics)</b>	

\*\*Additional assignments will include in-class activities or short homework assignments, which will be discussed in class.